



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 52, Issue 9

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

March 5, 2004



Photo courtesy of Northwest Florida Daily News

Hurlburt Field motorcycle riders stream out of the front gate Monday in a rally to Eglin Beach Club. The rally followed a Mentorship Concept of Operations safety briefing at the base theater.

Motorcyclists converge for rally, briefing

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

One hundred and seventeen motorcycles crowded the Hurlburt Field theater parking lot and 332 riders filled the theater Monday for a safety briefing and rally supporting a new motorcycle club initiative.

The motorcycle club, the first of its kind in the Air Force, will be a private organization like any other bike club. It will focus on mentorship, camaraderie between riders and keeping each other safe, said Master Sgt. Guy Alexander, flight safety NCO.

"We're here to share our love for the open air," he said.

Between 1999 and today the Air Force has had more than 70 motorcycle fatalities, said Sergeant

Alexander. One of them was from Hurlburt Field.

"(Secretary of Defense Donald) Rumsfeld said we'll reduce our mishaps by 50 percent. This is one of the initiatives that will do this," he said. "There's strength in numbers, and we can make positive changes."

The base spent \$80,000 last year for improvements to the motorcycle training pad and instruction for people to become better riders, said Sergeant Alexander.

After the rally at the theater, riders lined up for a cruise to the Eglin Beach Club for refreshments, raffles and to begin pooling ideas for the bike club.

Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Gary Howze, the guest speaker at the rally, said the extra safety measures employed by Hurlburt Field riders

gives them an advantage over other riders on the road. For example, helmet usage isn't required by the state of Florida, but it is for military members, as are long pants, jackets, gloves and reflective/bright clothing and vests.

"The good news is that motorcycle riders account for only 2 percent of traffic accidents in Florida," said Lieutenant Howze. "The bad news is that 10 percent of fatal crashes are motorcycles."

There are 686 automobile and motorcycle crashes every day in Florida, he said. Out of these crashes, three out of four motorcycle fatalities are to people who aren't wearing helmets.

For more information about the motorcycle club, policies and classes, call Sergeant Alexander at 884-5008.

Base honors elite performers

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

Ten individuals were recognized for their superior job performance at the Hurlburt Field annual awards banquet Feb. 27 at the Emerald Coast Convention Center.

Approximately 300 people looked on as Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, and 16th SOW Command Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, individually congratulated award recipients and presented each with a plaque.

The following people are the 2003 Hurlburt Field award winners:

Company Grade Officer

Capt. Albert Smith, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge, led 254 personnel in maintaining eight AC-130H Gunships and two C-130E aircraft in support of two special operations squadrons during the busiest time in unit history. He managed a \$11.6 million operating budget and a \$5 million equipment inventory, while producing 3,600 annual flying hours.

Captain Smith also pioneered integrated maintenance action plans to expedite force sustainment for the war on terrorism.

Civilian GS 9-12

Christopher Wentworth, 16th Contracting Squadron supervisory contract specialist, was a linchpin in Hurlburt Field winning the 2003 Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award. He terminated sole source negotiation

See **AWARD**, Page 3

News



Officer promotions

Hurlburt Field congratulates new major, captain selects

Page 3

Feature



6th SOS

Unique squadron is in a league of its own

Page 10



Basketball tourney

RED HORSE, 16th AMX clash in tournament

Page 13

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – cloudy and rainy, High 72 Low 60

Saturday – isolated showers, High 71 Low 63

Sunday – mostly cloudy, High 66 Low 60

www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day



Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the

COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. O.G. Mannon

Front gate frenzy

Comment: Is there a long-term plan for resolving the morning traffic problems at the main gate? Hurlburt Field has justifiably been in a heightened state of security since "9/11," however, there seems to be a plethora of both long-term and short-term unimplemented solutions out there that keep security tight while easing the morning traffic problem. Unfortunately, the only visible movement toward any solution is the lengthening of the turn lanes on U.S. Highway 98, which are still not long enough to keep the Hurlburt Field traffic from disrupting the traffic flow on Highway 98. We need to move towards a more permanent solution to the problem of Highway 98 gate traffic.

Reply: The traffic congestion in the morning and evening on Highway 98 at our main gate is a significant concern to us all. The 16th Civil Engineer Squadron has been working closely with Okaloosa County to find short-term, and long-term solutions to the problem. In fact, the problem is so significant that the state of Florida, as well as the federal government, through Congressman Jeff Miller, have contributed funds to finding a solution.

Unfortunately, there are currently no known solutions that will make this problem completely disappear without significant funds and time. That said, let me take this opportunity to update you on our long-term goals designed to rectify the situation.

Okaloosa County recently completed a Project Development and Environmental Study that identified the best long-term solution for congestion on Highway 98 at our main gate. This study was funded through Florida's Defense Infrastructure Grant Program. This study recommends rais-

ing the east/west through lanes of Highway 98 over Cody Avenue, similar to an interstate off ramp. Congressman Miller was able to obtain federal funding to begin the design documents. Currently the cost of construction (\$10-14 million) is unfunded. We are working with local governments, through the Transportation Planning Organization, to raise the priority of this project with the Florida Department of Transportation.

Obviously our security measures at the main gate are also contributing to the traffic problems. We are also aggressively pursuing solutions in this area as well. In addition to developing better/faster ways to move vehicles through the gate without compromising security, we have recently completed a study to see how we can improve the design of the current gate facilities. This study indicated that a complete rebuild of our gate is necessary to adequately address the traffic volumes we're currently experiencing. Therefore, we've inserted a \$6.6 million project in our Military Construction Program to address this situation. This is currently slated for fiscal-year 2008. However, we hope to gain congressional support to move this project up in the priority list to have it funded sooner.

In the near-term, we continuously work with Okaloosa County and the Florida Department of Transportation to adjust the main gate traffic signal to maximize traffic flow. We have also asked the county to investigate the timing, to see if we can improve the evening rush-hour delays.

One point that should be mentioned, are the school buses that many of us encounter each morning. Please remember that our children are out there on the side of the road each morning waiting for these school buses. Don't let the frustration of the traffic congestion cloud your judgment. While the delays may be inconvenient, always consider the safety of those around you when driving.

Women inspire hope and possibility

By Rhonda Gritsavage
16th Special Operations Wing

It's March, and it's Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility: The Blossoming of Hope Brings the Gift of Possibility."

Throughout the years, women have contributed immensely to our country's progress with their strength and determination. Women like Lillian M. Gilbreth, an industrial engineer; Clara Barton, a union nurse who founded the American Red Cross; Lucy Stone, an abolitionist and leader for women's rights; Harriet Tubman, the organizer of the Underground Railroad who also served the Union Army as a cook, spy and scout; Sybil Ludington, a Revolutionary War heroine; Frances Perkins, the first woman member of a presidential Cabinet; and Harriet Quimby, the first American woman

to receive a pilot's license.

As we celebrate these exceptional women and share their amazing stories, let us not forget our own heroes – the women who've made and continue to make a difference in our every day lives.

One of the women that touched my life in a dramatic fashion (at least I thought so when I was nine) was my third grade teacher, Mrs. Stuart.

Due to my inability to perfect cursive writing, I was often required to stay in from recess. Though my writing is still barely legible, I learned an important lesson: sometimes we do what's necessary just so we can go outside and play at recess.

I was also lucky enough to have an amazing teacher in the sixth grade, Miss Rupert, who showed me that hard work is still possible without sacrificing laughter and fun!

Today, I continue to learn from the women in my life – my friends

and family – and "steal" a bit of each of them, hoping to make myself a better person. Suzanne's deep faith in God is inspirational; Robin's grace and courage despite several bumps in the road encourages me to appreciate the good things in my life; Pat's obvious love and pride in her family remind me to cherish and embrace my family even more. I'm also lucky to have a beautiful daughter, Catherine, who often reminds me to "chill" and just enjoy life; and without a doubt, my mother, whose love of life and contagious smile brightened so many of my days.

These women are part of my history.

So, as we enjoy the special events this month, relive the stories of the past and be thankful for the road these historical women have paved. Let's also celebrate the extraordinary women of today who make a difference and shape our future.



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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

Address information

U.S. MAIL: COMMANDO,
131 Bartley St. Ste. 326,
Hurlburt Field, FL. 32544-5271
E-MAIL: commando@hurlburt.af.mil
TELEPHONE: (850) 884-7464
FAX: (850) 884-6093

COMMANDO Editorial Staff:

Col. O.G. Mannon
Commander

Capt. Thomas Knowles
Chief, Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Darrell Brewer
NCOIC

Tech. Sgt. William Seabrook Jr.
Chief, Internal Information

Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Editor

Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Staff writer

Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Staff writer

Vanessa Adame
Layout and design

16th Communications Squadron
Photography

Northwest Florida Daily News
Production support

DUI Tracker

Feb. 26-March 4: 0 DUIs
(This year: 12)

DUIs for 2003: 53

Last DUI: 16th Helicopter
Maintenance Squadron

Airmen Against Drunk Driving
Don't Drink and Drive. Call 884-8844
Potential saves this year: 84


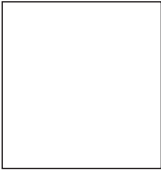
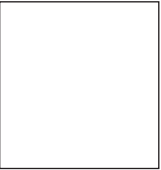
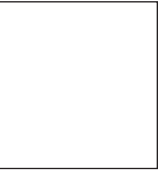
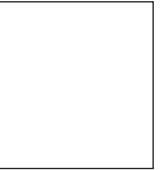
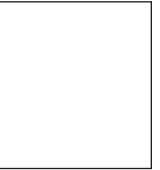
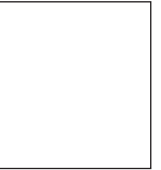

16th OG18 **16th MSG14**
16th MXG11 **16th MDG18**

As of Feb. 15, individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of March 4.



58 captains, 14 lieutenants selected for promotion

AWARD, Continued from Page 1

									
Capt. Albert Smith	Christopher Wentworth	Hans Christian	Phillip Koerber	Master Sgt. Kevin Roberts	Master Sgt. Charles Fleetwood	Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Nabors	Staff Sgt. Becky Brown	Staff Sgt. James Mabe	Airman 1st Class Jason Simmons

impasse and competitively awarded a contract for an addition to the 39th Information Operation Squadron's training facility. He saved more than \$132,000 and increased competitive award percentages for the wing. Mr. Wentworth, who saved Hurlburt Field an additional \$300,000 by negotiating chiller replacement, coached Eglin Air Force Base on a similar initiative.

Mr. Wentworth is also a considerate boss, never overlooking employees' birthdays, initiating care packages for deployed members and even mowing their lawns.

Civilian GS 1-8

Hans Christian, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron fire inspector, saved a life when he provided immediate care to a person suffering an extreme diabetic reaction. Mr. Christian successfully managed the accountability, maintenance and testing program for more than 11,000 feet of essential fire attack and supply hose valued at more than \$100,000.

He developed a system to track and update the fire emergency services flight's extensive prefire plan program. Mr. Christian also conducted monthly fire prevention and safety inspections on high priority and risk occupancy facilities, ensuring facilities were mission ready.

Wage Grade Civilian

Phillip Koerber, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron carpenter-locksmith, expertly managed Hurlburt Field's best multi-level master key system supporting more than 900 facilities. Mr. Koerber single-handedly identified, ordered and replaced approximately \$12,000 in door and lock replacements.

He also developed a master key padlock system for \$76,000 worth of assets deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom.

First Sergeant

Master Sgt. Kevin Roberts, 16th Security Forces

Squadron first sergeant, provided superior performance during OEF and Operation Iraqi Freedom deploying 150 days and two tours. While deployed, he led the effort to create a softball field and a 10,000 book library.

Sergeant Roberts personally intervened whenever deployed troops had personal, family and financial problems. He regularly called spouses of deployed members, and helped families resolve serious base housing issues.

Assistant First Sergeant

Master Sgt. Charles Fleetwood, 16th Component Maintenance Squadron assistant first sergeant, masterfully managed unit awards and recognition programs, convened boards and presided as board president. His efforts led the unit in receiving the Lance P. Sijon and Leo Marquez awards, a master sergeant step promotion and wing NCO of the quarter.

Sergeant Fleetwood garnered support for Honduran orphans by securing \$1,500 in gifts. He continues to be a trusted mentor among squadron personnel and is sought out by all ranks for guidance and problem resolution.

Senior NCO

Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Nabors, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels manager, led 83 troops and issued 10 million gallons of fuel to support 5,000 Special Operations Forces. He drafted and executed a plan to deploy 54 percent of the flight to nine separate locations to support a multitude of AEF taskings during OIF.

Sergeant Nabors transferred fuel 250 percent faster, cut aircraft ground time by 70 percent, minimizing aircrew exposure to fire in hot landing zones.

He also oversaw a wing \$400,000 alternative fuel conversion to biodiesel.

NCO

Staff Sgt. Becky Brown, 16th Component Maintenance Squadron propeller section crew leader, led build-up of 123 engines in fiscal year 2003, which was vital to launching more than 2,897 combat sorties in the global war on terrorism. She enabled Air Force Special Operations Command's first ever simultaneous propeller hub and blade test bench, increasing capability by 200 percent.

Sergeant Brown's efforts led to the best production rates two years running, producing 51 T56/T64 engines for four commands.

NCO

Staff Sgt. James Mabe, 505th Operations Squadron interface control, trained a tactical unit on Battlefield Universal Gateway Equipment during work ups and deployment to multiple sensitive battlefield locations during OIF. He was instrumental in success of launch operations against hostile Iraqi forces providing the highest battle damage.

Sergeant Mabe's tireless efforts were recognized by the deputy commander and Combined Forces Air Component Command as superior during OIF.

Airman

Airman 1st Class Jason Simmons, 16th Medical Operations Squadron medical services journeyman, processed 165 physical health assessments monthly; expertly managed infection control program for a 70-member flight, implementing many of his ideas group-wide. Airman Simmons assisted on 24 minor surgical procedures and provided wound-care instructions.

His work has been noted for unsurpassed professionalism receiving accolades from patients.

(Editor's note: There are two people mentioned in the NCO category because a tenant unit member was also recognized at the banquet, and his package will be forwarded through his major command.)

Suicide-prevention efforts re-evaluated

By G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – After 11 active-duty suicides since Jan. 1 and 14 during the final quarter of 2003, Air Force senior leaders are asking commanders and leaders across the service to assess and re-energize suicide prevention efforts at all levels.

The 2003 calendar-year suicide rate of 10.5 per 100,000 people was the lowest of all the military services and one-half the rate of a comparable civilian population of males between the ages of 20 and 50.

However, as of Feb. 24, the service's suicide rate was 18.1.

In a letter sent to all major commands, the Air Force's acting assistant vice chief of staff urged all airmen to continue pitching in to reduce the number of suicides.

"Suicide isn't stopped by medical personnel in emergency rooms; it's stopped by addressing quality-of-life issues in the unit on a daily basis," Lt. Gen. Richard Brown III said.

"The major components of the

Air Force Suicide Prevention Program are: Active leadership involvement, an emphasis on community involvement, and a focus on prevention throughout the life of airmen and their families – not just when they're suicidal," General Brown said.

"Pay special attention to the quality of your suicide-prevention briefings," he said.

The Air Force requires active-duty and civilian personnel to attend suicide-prevention briefings once during the 15-month air and space expeditionary force cycle.

In light of the recent suicides – none of which occurred during Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom – General Brown urged commanders to "review how well they continue to implement the 11 initiatives that serve as the foundation of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program."

The 11 initiatives are outlined in *Air Force Pamphlet 44-160*, "Air Force Suicide Prevention Program: Description of Program Initiatives and Outcomes."

The 11 initiatives are: build community awareness; leadership involvement; investigative inter-

view policy; professional military education; epidemiological database; delivery of community preventive services; community education and training; critical incident stress management; integrated delivery system; limited patient-psychotherapist privilege; and unit risk-factor assessment.

A key element of the program is to make a steady pipeline of suicide-prevention tools available for Air Force people at all levels.

So far in 2004, the Air Force Medical Service has issued the "2004 Leader's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress," which is geared to help commanders, first sergeants and other leaders recognize when their people are distressed and learn how to respond appropriately.

The pamphlet can be viewed at <https://www.afms.mil/afspp>

A few other suicide-prevention tools include:

- "The Air Force Guide for Managing Suicidal Behavior: Strategies, Resources and Tools"

- The Air Force Suicide Prevention Web site

- The 2003 Community Suicide Prevention briefing (AFPN)

Famous women in U.S. history



Jacqueline Cochran

Jacqueline Cochran, Pensacola native, was the first woman aviator to break the sound barrier.

She was also a leading aviatrix who promoted an independent Air Force and the founder and director of

the Women's Air Force Service Pilots program, conducting flying training for women during World War II.

At the time of her death Aug. 10, 1980, Ms. Cochran held more speed, altitude and distance records than any other male or female pilot in aviation history.

Retirees return to Tricare for health

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Military retirees are returning to Tricare for their health care, and the service's senior executive thinks that's a good thing.

But it comes at a price.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche met Feb. 26 with members of the House Committee on Armed Services to discuss the Air Force's portion of the 2005 National Defense Authorization Request.

"This is a good-news story on one level – it's validation that we're caring for our retired service members," Secretary Roche said. "It comes, however, with significant cost growth."

Retiree enrollment in Tricare has risen eight percent in the past two years because of higher premiums and co-pays in the civilian sector. Secretary Roche said the Department of Defense has reprogrammed about \$600 million this year to pay for that growth, and that the services are being forced to absorb increasing amounts.

The secretary told committee members about an idea for a joint venture with Veterans Affairs to help cut costs and maximize usage of military facilities.

"We have unused capacity in our Air Force hospitals and clinics," he said. "We'd like to...advertise to our retirees what's available at our Air Force medical facilities and see how many will come back – not to Tricare, which is cash, but come back to our existing facilities to work with our doctors."

Secretary Roche urged the committee to keep the increased usage and costs in mind as they consider any proposed expansion of benefits.

"I believe it's a good thing because it says we're keeping faith with people, and we gave them our word," Secretary Roche said.

News Briefs



Local News JSOU programs

The Joint Special Operations University will hold the Middle East Orientation Course Monday through

March 12. For more information, call Joyce Weber at 884-4731 or Capt. Brett Seiling at 884-7133 or visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou/>

Also, the JSOU will hold the Foreign Area Officer program brief March 11 from noon to 1 p.m. for all Special Operators interested in learning a foreign language, becoming a regional expert or helping the Air Force fill Political-Military/Attaché billets worldwide. For more information, call 1st Lt. Walker Moody at DSN 425-8337.

Alabama ANG

The Air National Guard's 280th Combat Communications Squadron in Dothan, Ala., has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 33S3, 2E1X1, 2E1X3, 2E2X1, 3C2X1 and 3E0X2.

For more information about career openings or ANG benefits, call Master Sgt. William Andujar at 884-2729 or e-mail william.andujar@hurlburt.af.mil

ANG Palace Chase

The final date for Air National Guard Palace Chase applications to be considered under the Force Shaping Program is March 12. For more information, call Master Sgt. William Andujar at 884-2429 or e-mail william.andujar@hurlburt.af.mil



Air Force News Motorcycle mentors

Under a Chief of Staff of the Air Force directive, the Air Force plans to develop a motorcycle-mentoring program to foster the education and skills development of motorcycle riders.

The mentoring program will take the form of an Air Force wide network of motorcycle clubs that will:

- Foster the education and skills development of motorcycle riders

- Create a supportive environment of responsible motorcycle riding and enjoyment

- Serve as a force multiplier for commanders' mishap prevention programs

AF portal

The Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force ask all airmen to sign up for the Air Force Portal, a Web-based technology that provides an interface to as many Air Force information applications as possible with a single login.

Applications now available on the portal include the virtual military personnel flight and an instant-messaging system.

The portal also offers:

- A "white pages" section that lists all Air Force personnel

- The ability to visit the portal from a home computer or remote location domains

- The ability to share information, assign tasks, etc.

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- Foster the education and skills development of motorcycle riders

- Create a supportive environment of responsible motorcycle riding and enjoyment

- Serve as a force multiplier for commanders' mishap prevention programs

AF portal

The Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force ask all airmen to sign up for the Air Force Portal, a Web-based technology that provides an interface to as many Air Force information applications as possible with a single login.

Applications now available on the portal include the virtual military personnel flight and an instant-messaging system.

The portal also offers:

- A "white pages" section that lists all Air Force personnel

- The ability to visit the portal from a home computer or remote location domains

- The ability to share information, assign tasks, etc.

AFMC commander visits AFSOC warfighters

By Master Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
AFSOC Public Affairs

The more than 80,000 military and civilians assigned to Air Force Materiel Command are in the thick of the battlefield every day.

AFMC is the Air Force's lead agency for developing, acquiring and sustaining the aerospace power needed to defend the United States and its interests.

From canopies and rotors, to nuts and bolts and bombs, the AFMC team ensures the forward forces have the decisive advantage.

In an opportunity to talk with the "customers," the commander of AFMC visited Hurlburt Field, Feb. 24-25. Gen. Greg Martin, commander of AFMC, toured maintenance facilities and met with senior Air Force Special Operations Command leaders during the two-day visit – dubbed "MAJCOM Day."

According to officials, MAJCOM Day provides a forum for dialogue between the AFMC commander and his counterparts at the operational

commands, and ensures AFMC resources are applied to resolve warfighter's highest priority issues.

"I came here to get re-energized about (AFMC's) relationship with AFSOC," said General Martin. "It also offered a chance to talk about ways to sustain the systems we have now and prepare for the new technologies of the future."

During his first stop, General Martin toured the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron's Eason Hangar. Among the items the EMS team discussed with the general is an integrated C-130 heavy maintenance stand by the Isochronical Inspection – ISO – team.

"(Previously) we used a system of modular stands designed by Lockheed," said Tech. Sgt. Russell Chance, during his briefing to General Martin. "But they didn't permit access to all areas of the airplane and were not one continuous work surface, they had gaps and were uneven to walk on."

Sergeant Chance told the AFMC commander that the depot at Robins AFB, Ga., used the stand and the EMS team saw the advantages.

"It allows us to put the aircraft on jacks for the duration of our maintenance process," he said. "This allows landing gear and engine maintenance to occur simultaneously. This was unheard of during the era of the old stands."

For General Martin, the trip was beneficial to listen to AFMC "customers."

"Any opportunity to interact with the commands we support is well worth the effort," said the general.

The general's visit to AFSOC was his first MAJCOM Day tour this year. While at Hurlburt Field, General Martin also toured the propulsion shop and the 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron's Independence Hangar.



Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

Tech. Sgt. Robert Wagner, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, shows Gen. Greg Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander, a wishbone bracket used on an MH-53 PAVE LOW.

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U.S., Britain unite in Operation Thursday

By Dr. John Dabrowski
16th SOW History Office

Good will and superb tactical coordination between U.S. Air Commandos and the British Chindits resulted in the success of Operation Thursday; this operation became the bold est single operation of the entire war in the China-Burma-India Theater.

This mission was why the Air Commandos were formed and sent to the CBI; it took place only weeks after the two organizations were brought together.

Sixty years ago March 5, 1944, Operation Thursday began with a main operating base named Broadway, an airstrip cut from the Burmese jungle approximately 150-200 miles behind Japanese lines.

With few casualties, the Air Commandos landed nearly 10,000 men, 1,500 horses and mules and more than 500,000 pounds of supplies. In addition, the fighter and bomber sections of the Air Commando group destroyed more than 30 percent of the Japanese Air Force operating in the CBI Theater during March 1944.

The 900th Airborne Engineer Company, commanded by 1st Lt. Patrick Casey, was one of the sections included in the Air Commando group. The unit, having air-transportable tractors, road graders and bulldozers at its disposal, was tasked with building airfields behind Japanese lines.

During the initial landings, Lieutenant Casey was killed, leaving inexperienced Engineer Officer 2nd Lt. Robert Brackett in charge. Col. John Alison, the Air Commando group commander, asked Lieutenant Brackett how long it would take to clear the wreckage and build a suitable airstrip.

Lieutenant Brackett replied, "If I have it done by this afternoon, will that be too late?"

The engineers borrowed every available man and undamaged equipment to accomplish the feat. The men began filling in ruts and flattening the ground on the airstrip. Improvising with teakwood logs between tractors to make crude graders, engineers then began to level the field.

Colonel Alison advised headquarters that the airstrip would be ready to receive C-47's that night and suggested starting with a limited number of sorties. The second night, approximately 100 sorties were flown into Broadway at the rate of about 10 per hour – all this on a lighted airstrip built in one day.

After six days and nights, Operation Thursday officially ended as planned March 11, 1944. In less than one week, two British Long Range Patrol units had been inserted deep behind enemy territory without Japanese knowledge or interference.

Week in History

The following is a list of extraordinary events in military history that occurred several years ago this week:

March 1, 1993 – U.S. forces began to drop relief supplies to civilians in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

March 2, 1949 – Capt. James Gallagher returned to Fort Worth, Texas, after flying non-stop around the world in 94 hours with a crew of 13 men; tanker aircraft refuelled their plane four times during the flight.

March 3, 1969 – U.S. spacecraft Apollo 9 was launched.

March 5, 1997 – In a New York City hotel, U.S. and North and South Korean officials began talks aimed at formally ending the Korean War. It was the first time since 1972 that North and South Koreans sat in the same room to talk peace.

March 6, 1997 – More than 200 people were killed when Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger guerrillas overran a military base and attacked the Air Force's eastern headquarters.



Jumpstarting donations

Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, makes the first donation to the Air Force Assistance Fund at the campaign kick-off Monday held in the 20th Special Operations Squadron auditorium. Col. Mannon would like the base to strive to contribute at least the amount equal to what the base receives from AFAF. Last year, the base contributed more than \$56,000 and in return received more than \$300,000 from AFAF.

Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

"Help people now because you never know if you'll need help in the future."

Airman 1st Class BJ Davis
16th Operations Support Squadron

"To help the less fortunate people around me."

Airman Basic Michael Goldsmith
Detachment 1, 334th Training Squadron

Look who's talking:

Why do you donate to the Air Force Assistance Fund?

"I would donate to help those who need help."

Senior Airman Michael Harris
96th Security Forces Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base

Voting residency rules for service members, families

Service members and their families may not arbitrarily choose which state to declare as their legal voting residence without meeting the state's residency requirement.

The following are basic guidelines to determine residency for military personnel and their family members:

- Must have or have had physical presence in the state and simultaneously the intent to remain or make the state their home or domicile

- May only have one legal residence at a time, but may change residency each time they are transferred to a new location

- Must make a conscious decision to change residency; it can't be done accidentally

There must be certain specific actions which may be interpreted as conscious decisions, such as registering to

vote, registering a car, qualifying for in-state tuition, obtaining a driver's license, etc.

- Once residence is changed, a person may not revert to the previous residence without re-establishing new physical presence and intent to remain or return

- "Home of record" shouldn't be confused with legal residence. "Home of record" is the address a military member had upon entry into the service – it doesn't change

Family members of active-duty personnel may each have a different legal residence. The spouse must meet the physical presence and intent to remain or return criteria.

For more information, visit the FVAP Web site at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

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6th SOS: AF's 'best of the best'

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

As the only Combat Aviation Advisory Squadron in the U.S. Air Force and the only selectively manned unit in the 16th Special Operations Wing, the 6th Special Operations Squadron is in a league of its own.

With more than 100 hand-picked instructors, representing approximately 30 Air Force Specialty Codes, who "assess, train, advise and assist foreign aviation forces in airpower employment, sustainment and force integration, the 6th SOS can be considered its own "miniature air force," said Maj. David Hook, 6th SOS chief fixed-wing pilot.

"Each member is not only an expert in their AFSC," Major Hook



Courtesy photo

6th SOS Special Operators work with host nation Special Operations Forces in the land navigation phase of survival training.

said, "but also a capable performer of one or more other AFSC functions on their team – in the event a teammate becomes ill or incapacitated during a mission."

The squadron is organized into four regionally-oriented flights aligned with specific geographic commands – Operational Aviation Detachment-A, which is the basic tactical deployment module for combat aviation advisory operations and Operational Aviation Detachment-B, which is deployed alongside OAD-A to provide logistics, administrative and medical infrastructure support.

OAD-A and OAD-B teams are specially tailored in both size and composition to meet specific mission needs.

In order to maintain a strong mission-ready force, each of the squadron members receives extensive training of their own in the areas of airpower applications, tactical employment, mission planning, foreign language proficiency, and regional orientation to include political and culture awareness.

They're also taught force protection, personal survival, instructional skills, risk management and safety.

In addition, squadron members are provided with Intergraded Skills Training to prepare them for Combat Aviation Advisor duties in specific AFSCs and to function in a fully-integrated team environment on an OAD.

According to Major Hook, this is essentially a "shoot, move and communicate" instructional program.

The IST course includes training in: mission planning, individual and collective field craft skills, survival,



Courtesy photo

The 6th Special Operations Squadron performs infiltration-exfiltration training with the Russian built MI-8 helicopter.

advanced weapons employment and tactics, tactical communications, combat lifesaver, vehicle operations, operational logistics support, and self-recovery operations.

"The 6th SOS has a long history of providing Joint-Combined Exchange Training involving airbase security, aircrew survival, aircraft generation and battle damage repair to many of the current partner countries



Courtesy photo

6th SOS advisors work with indigenous forces on a Russian-built AN-32 aircraft by extracting troops.

involved in OEF and OIF," said Major Hook.

By integrating with the friendly allied forces, the 6th SOS combat advisory teams are able to advise and train them on how to employ and sustain their airpower resources in joint and multi-national battlefield operations.

"While flying isn't the only capability of the 6th SOS, it's a cornerstone in our operational abilities," said Major Hook.

For this reason, the unit flies both fixed and rotary-wing aircraft in support of its mission essential tasks. Rotary-wing crews stay current in the UH-1N Huey, and the fixed-wing crews in the C-130E/H Hercules or the C-47T Turbo Dakota. However, the aircrews are also qualified in eight foreign-built aircrafts as well.

"These aircraft are representatives of our coalition partners' aircraft," said Major Hook. "Our aircrews fly them to maintain their advisory expertise."

Not only has aircraft expertise opened doors to allied relationships, but the combat advisory teams and the six-person International

Health Services team within the squadron have helped open doors to many countries that provided the initial bases for Special Operations Forces aviation in the Global War on Terrorism, Major Hook said.

The Air Force's "best of the best" do what they can to train, advise and assist our nation's allied forces.

Family Fest: A festival of fun

By Melanie Wilson-Lerman
16th Services Squadron

Hurlburt Field's annual Family Fest event is fast approaching.

This event, scheduled to be held at the community park behind the child development center March 20, celebrates the opening of youth baseball season, the Month of the Military Child, child abuse prevention and the grand opening of the new batting cages.

Family Fest has grown to entertain more than 4,000 family members of all ages. The event offers tons of free crafts, games, rides and valuable educational information.

Parents may bring children by the 16th Security Forces Squadron booth to complete an Ident-a-Kid kit, receive eye exams from the eye clinic booth or check out what is happening at the "tooth booth."

Various characters can also be spotted lurking around looking for someone to pose for a photo. On center stage will be tae-kwon-do, gymnastics and a special performance by a local Polynesian group, *The Ohana* – meaning "family."

The purpose of Family Fest is to offer an event where families can interact with each other in a fun environment, while observing the important themes from which the

event is based.

This event is paid for entirely with funds from Hurlburt Field recycling and donations from local organizations.

If you wish to make a donation, call Melanie Wilson-Lerman at 884-3820. To join in the festivities and host a booth at the event, e-mail charles.lowrey@hurlburt.af.mil.

Many volunteers in a variety of capacities are also needed to support this project. If anyone would like to help make this event a success, call Heather Gerlach at 884-1533.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

Eleven-year-old Megan Izumi gets all turned around on the Rings of Fun at Family Fest 2003.

Community

Spouses' Club drive

Hurlburt Field's Officers' Spouses' Club will host a monthly luncheon March 25 at The Soundside at 11 a.m. The HOSC constantly holds membership drives and encourages spouses to attend the monthly luncheons. For more information about the HOSC, call Susie Schaffer at 863-4939.

The Hurlburt Field Enlisted Spouses' Club will sponsor an annual membership drive by hosting a "bingo night" April 22, 6 p.m. in the base chapel. For more information about the HESC, call Elena Cron at 581-1468.

Volunteers needed

The Hurlburt Field Airman's Council is looking for volunteers to help with projects in support of Habitat for Humanity. The airman's council will be working on a project site March 13 from 7 to 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, email Senior Airman Mary Kizzee at mary.kizzee@hurlburt.af.mil.

Legal office closed

The legal office will be closed until 1 p.m. Monday for an official function. For more information, call 884-7821.

AFCOMAP meeting

The Air Force Cadet Officer Mentoring Action Program will hold a meeting Thursday, 11:30 a.m. at the Eglin Officers' Club. The guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Robert Marks, 96th Medical Group emergency services flight commander, who earned the Bronze Star for his support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

OWCC fast track term

Enrollment is ongoing at Okaloosa-Walton Community College for an eight-week fast-track term which started Tuesday. Students may earn all the credit of a normal college term in a compressed period of time. For a complete course listing, visit www.owcc.edu. Individuals may enroll at any OWCC location or by internet now through Tuesday. For more information, call the OWCC Hurlburt Field center at 884-6296 or OWCC at 729-6922.

Bargain sale

The Junior League of Pensacola, Inc. is hosting the annual Bargain Sale today and Saturday at the Pensacola Bayfront auditorium. The event features items ranging from furniture and children's toys to clothing, house wares and linens. Preview night is today from 3 to 9 p.m. All items purchased tonight will be marked up 50 percent. Regular sale hours are Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$1 for both events. For more information, call 433-4421.

Chess tournament

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Kiwanis Club and Choctawhatchee High School are sponsoring a chess tournament Saturday at Choctawhatchee High School. Life Master Chess Player, Kerry Leahy will make an appearance. The tournament is open to all ages. Applications must be turned in today. ERAU will also be available for information and registration for the Spring B 2004 Term (March 15-May 15). For more information, call 581-2106.

Hurlburt Happenings

Fitness center closure

The Aderholt Fitness Center steam room will be closed for renovations March 22 through May 5. For more information, call the fitness center at 884-6884.

Education grant

Air Force Aid Society Education Grant applications are available at the family support center. Applications are also available at www.afas.org. Deadline to apply is March 12.

Work-study program

The Veteran's Administration Work-Study Program has positions available. The program provides part-time employment to veterans who participate three-fourths or full time in a college degree, vocational, or professional program and are using VA educational benefits. Work hours will not exceed 25 hours per week. For more information, call the transition assistance office at 884-6280/81.

Summer hire program

The Hurlburt Field summer hire program is accepting applications. To qualify, students must be enrolled in high school, technical or vocational school, college/university and taking at least a half-time course load. Students must be at least 16 years old by the work start date, which begins in the May and June timeframe. A résumé is required for consideration.

For information on how to apply, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afjobs or stop by the civilian personnel office located in building 90210, Room 135. For more information, call Pat White at 884-5212.

School clean-up

Mary Esther Elementary School is holding a campus clean-up day March 13 at 9 a.m. If your child is a student at the school and you plan to attend, please provide the student's and teacher's names so the class may receive credit for your participation.

Mary Esther Elementary is located on U.S. Highway 98 between Animal Hospital of the Emerald Coast and Target. Lunch will be served to all volunteers at 11:30 a.m. If you'd like to volunteer, call Cynthia Turzak no later than Tuesday, at 884-5341.

Education survey

The Hurlburt Field Education Services Center is conducting a survey through April 30 to help determine the needs of our students. The survey is available online at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec>. For more information, call Jannie Benson at 884-6000.

OU summer registration

The University of Oklahoma is holding summer registration now through August. OU offers nationally accredited graduate degrees in International Relations, Human Relations and Managerial Economics. For more information, call 581-3000.

Enlisted Hooch clean-up

The Hurlburt Field Top 3 and Chief's Groups are sponsoring the Enlisted Hooch Cleanup and Repair Day March 12 at noon. Volunteers are needed to help with repair plans. For more information, call Chief Master Sgts. Kevin Thurman at 884-3414; Brooke McLean at 884-5889 or Master Sgt. Mike Garrouette at 884-4161.

Air Force TV and Radio News



To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com> or www.af.mil/news and click on TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September-May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship)
11:30 a.m. (traditional)

12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August-May
Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center
Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795

At the movies



Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday - (PG-13) *Along came Polly*, starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston - Reuben's plans for love career off track when his bride dumps him. Reuben plans to play it safe, but an encounter with a childhood friend shoots him into a whirlwind.

Saturday - (PG-13) *Big Fish*, starring Ewan McGregor and Albert Finney - Edward has always exaggerated his exploits when he left his town for adventures near and far. Nearly everyone has been spellbound by his tales except his estranged son, who comes home to care for his dying dad and separate fact from fiction.

Sunday - (PG-13) *Torque*, starring Ice Cube and Jay Hernandez - A motorcycle racer is framed for murder by his long-time nemesis, bringing the most notorious biker gang and its leader after him for revenge, with the FBI in pursuit of all of them.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday - (R) *Cold Mountain*, starring Jude Law and Nicole Kidman - A wounded Civil War soldier begins the difficult walk home to be with Ada. Although heartbroken, Ada is struggling to care for her deceased dad's farm. She receives a helping hand from sassy wanderer.

Saturday - (R) *The Butterfly Effect*, starring Ashton Kutcher and Amy Smart - An emotionally conflicted man travels back in time, but his actions in the past have enormous ramifications for his future.
Sunday - (PG-13) *My Baby's Daddy*, starring Eddie Griffin and Anthony Anderson - Three bachelors get a rude awakening when their girlfriends get pregnant at the same time.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled dates.)

Lenten lunches

The base chapel is holding Lenten lunches every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. through April 7 in the chapel annex. Pastors from the local community will share devotions on the seven last words of Christ.

Pastor Allan Newton from United Methodist Family Life Center, Gulf Breeze will share a devotional March 17. Pastor Bolden from Striving for Perfection will join the event March 24. Everyone is invited to share in this time of worship, teaching and prayer. A light lunch will be served following the service. The event is sponsored by the Protestant Parish.

Munch and Mend

The base chapel is hosting Munch and Mend Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. All airmen are invited to a free dinner while having minor repairs done on one article of clean clothing or to have stripes, patches or name tags sewn on. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371 or Jimmie Thomas at 881-3344.

ERAU registration

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is holding Spring II term registration through March 12 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through

Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Spring II term runs from March 15 through May 15. For more information, call 581-2106.

Home buying seminar

The Hurlburt Field Housing Office is hosting a home buying/selling seminar Monday from 8 to 11 a.m. at the family support center. Learn tips on buying and selling a home, getting the best financing, home inspections and more. To register, call 884-5441 to register.

New degree program

The University of Arkansas at Hurlburt Field offers a Master of Science degree with a major in Operations Management. Registration for Term IV continues through Tuesday. Degree requirements can be completed in one year. For more information on the degree program, call 884-3844 or e-mail uafgrad3@uofa.gccoxmail.com.

Give Parents a Break

Give Parents a Break offers eligible parents a few hours break from parenting once a month through the child development center. Spouses of active-duty members who are TDY or on a remote assignment may qualify for the program. For more information, call family childcare at 884-2893.

Classes

FSC classes

For information on the following family support center classes call 884-5441.

Resume Writing Workshop – Monday, 1 p.m.

Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.; reservations required

Federal Employment Information and Application Procedures – Thursday, 9 a.m.

Culture Shock – Friday, 11 a.m.

Commando Welcome Spouse – Tuesday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m. and Wednesday 1 p.m.; reservations required

HAWC classes

To reserve a seat in the following health and wellness center classes, call 884-4292. Classes are free of charge and held in Building 90232.

Body Composition Improvement Program – Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Healthy Living Workshop – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1 p.m.

Total Fitness Enhancement – Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

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AF Academy wins basketball conference title

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Academy basketball player Nick Welch scored 17 points and Air Force's stifling defense shut down San Diego State 61-49 Monday to complete the school's undefeated home season and clinch its first Mountain West Conference title.

The 21-5 Falcons (11-2 in the conference) never finished higher than sixth place; then it was in the Western Athletic Conference.

The victory moves Air Force, which was picked to finish last in the MWC preseason poll, closer to its first postseason appearance since the 1962 NCAA Tournament.

The Falcons need to win at least one game at the MWC Tournament, held March 11 to 13 in Denver, to enter the door to "March Madness."

More than 5,800 fans attended Monday's game, which was the final home game for Air Force seniors Marcus Jenkins, Joel Gerlach and A.J. Kuhle. Gerlach scored 14 points and tied his season-high with four 3-pointers, while Kuhle scored two points and dished out a career-high 11 assists, five more than the entire San Diego team.

The nation's leading defense held San Diego's Brandon Heath scoreless and allowed Chris Walton just two points. Heath went into the game averaging 14.5 points, and Walton was averaging 8.8.

Air Force closes out the regular season Saturday in Laramie, Wyo., against the University of Wyoming Cowboys. The Falcons will attempt to post the best regular-season record in the five-year history of the Mountain West Conference. No league team has ever finished 12-2. (AFPN)

RHS topples 16th AMXS 63-53



Photos by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

The 823rd RED HORSE Squadron team held off the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for a 63-53 win Tuesday during a March Madness Basketball Championship playoff game at the Aderholt Fitness Center.

Both teams were charged and matched point for point at the start of the fast paced game. By the end of the first 20-minute half, RED HORSE's aggressive shooting had mounted a 37-28 point lead.

An energetic comeback by AMXS brought the score to within three points, but the final two minutes saw a flurry of points by RED HORSE to

reel in the win.

"AMXS is an excellent team," said Jorge Rativa, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron coach. "But, in the last ten minutes of the game our defense came to life. We were able to open a ten point margin and dominate the rest of the game."

AMXS coach Cris Harrison said no one knew what to expect, since both teams had a 10-1 win/loss record in the regular season standings, and had never played each other until then.

"RED HORSE shot the ball very well," said Harrison. "It was a good game. We'll see them again, and things will be different next time around."

See next week's COMMANDO for the results of the March Madness Basketball Championship.



Nick Herzog, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron (top left, red jersey) knocks the ball away from a 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron player (blue), denying him a shot. (above) Tony Whitley, 16th AMXS, takes a free-throw after drawing a foul at the game.

Darius Kersh, 823rd RHS (left) dunks the ball in the final moments of a March Madness Basketball Championship game against the 16th AMXS, Tuesday.

Sports shorts

Varsity softball tryouts

Tryouts for the Hurlburt Field men's varsity softball team have begun. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774, or Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-2358.

Men's baseball league

Registration for the sixth season of the Okaloosa Men's Baseball League is scheduled at 3 p.m. at the Twin Oaks Baseball Field, in Niceville. The field is located on Highway 85 North, just north of College Boulevard, near the

Mullet Festival grounds. Registration is for both the 18-and-over and 30-and-over divisions. League fees are \$130 for players 18-29, and \$150 for players 30 and over. Game season begins in early May and is played locally in the Okaloosa area. For more information, call the league hotline at 864-7529, or visit the league Web site at www.ombl.org.

Intramural golf season

Intramural golf will begin early this year, kicking off April 1. For more information on golf

or other intramural sports programs, contact your unit sports representative.

Preseason softball tourney

The Commando Softball Preseason Intramural Tournament will be held March 27 at the base fields. Entry fee is \$110. The double-elimination tournament will be operated according to Amateur Softball Association intramural rules. Entry deadline is March 24. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774, or Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-2358.